

REMARKS

The Office Action dated July 5, 2005, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action.

Claims 1, 21, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39 and 40 are amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Support is found at least in paragraph [0067] of the specification for the amendments to claims 1, 35, 36, and 39 and support is found at least in paragraphs [0043]-[0044] of the specification for the amendments to claims 21, 37, 38 and 40. No new matter is added. Applicants are grateful for the indication in the Office Action that claim 29 would be allowed if rewritten into independent form. However, Applicants submit that claim 29 is allowable in its present form for the reasons set forth below. Claims 1-46 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-8, 10-28 and 32-46 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Publication No. 2003/0078031 to Masuda (Masuda). Applicants submit that the cited reference fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of any of the pending claims.

Claim 1, from which claims 2-20, depend, recites a communications system. The communication system includes at least one user device, the at least one user device configured to access a plurality of services in a session, a first entity including an

information store for storing information defining an amount of money for the at least one user device. The communication system further includes a controller, separate to the first entity, for requesting at least a portion of the amount of money to be reserved as a reserved portion and for controlling an allocation of the reserved portion between the plurality of services.

Claim 21, from which claims 22-33 depend, also recites a communications system. The communications system includes at least one user device, the at least one user device being configured to access a plurality of services simultaneously, and a first entity for storing information defining an amount of money for said at least one user device. The communications system further includes a controller for requesting reservation of at least a portion of the amount of money as a reserved portion. In the communications system, the first entity is configured to send information defining an amount of the reserved portion in a first form other than a monetary amount and the controller is arranged to convert information relating to the amount of the reserved portion to a second form as a monetary amount.

Independent claim 35 recites a communications method. The method includes accessing a plurality of services in a session, and storing at a first entity, information defining an amount of money for at least one user device. The method further includes requesting at a controller separate from the first entity, at least a portion of the amount of money to be reserved as a reserved portion, and controlling at the controller an allocation of the reserved portion between the plurality of services.

Independent claim 36 recites a controller for use in a communications system. The controller includes at least one user device, the at least one user device being configured to access a plurality of services in a session. The controller further includes an information store for storing information at a first entity defining an amount of money for the at least one user device, the controller being separate from first entity and being configured to request at least a portion of the amount of money to be reserved as a reserved portion and to control an allocation of the reserved portion between the plurality of services.

Independent claim 37 recites another embodiment of a communications method. The method includes accessing a plurality of services simultaneously, and storing information defining an amount of money for at least one user device. The method further includes requesting a reservation of at least a portion of said amount of money as a reserved portion, sending information defining an amount of said reserved portion in a first form other than a monetary amount, and converting information relating to said amount of said portion to a second form as a monetary amount.

Independent claim 38 recites another embodiment of a controller for use in a communications system. The controller includes at least one user device, said at least one user device being configured to access a plurality of services simultaneously. The controller further includes a first entity for storing information defining an amount of money for the at least one user device, the controller being configured to request a reservation of at least a portion of the amount of money as a reserved portion, and to

convert information defining an amount of the reserved portion in a first form other than a monetary amount received from the first entity to a second form as a monetary amount.

Independent claim 39 recites another embodiment of a communications system. The communication system includes accessing means for accessing a plurality of services in a session, and storing means for storing at a first entity, information defining an amount of money for at least one user device. The communications system further includes requesting means separate from the first entity, for requesting at least a portion of the amount of money to be reserved as a reserved portion, and controlling means separate from the first entity, for controlling an allocation of the reserved portion between the plurality of services.

Claim 40, from which claims 41-46 depend, recites another embodiment of a communications system. The communications system includes accessing means for accessing a plurality of services simultaneously, storing means for storing information defining an amount of money for at least one user device. The communications system further includes requesting means for requesting a reservation of at least a portion of the amount of money as a reserved portion, sending means for sending information defining an amount of the reserved portion in a first form other than as a monetary amount, and converting means for converting information relating to the amount of the portion to a second form as a monetary amount.

Applicants submit that the pending claims recite features that are neither disclosed nor suggested in any of the cited references.

Masuda relates to a communication system. Masuda describes a technique for allocating a pre-paid balance between a plurality of services such as a voice service and a packet communication service, where a prepayment control device both stores the pre-paid balance and allocates portions of the balance to the plurality of services. See paragraph [0014] of Masuda.

Applicants submit that Masuda fails to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in the pending claims. Specifically, regarding claims 1, 35, 36, and 39 Masuda fails to disclose or suggest at least the feature of a controller, separate to the first entity, for requesting at least a portion of the amount of money to be reserved as a reserved portion and for controlling an allocation of the reserved portion between the plurality of services, as recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in claims 35, 36 and 39.

Instead, Masuda discloses in Figure 1 and paragraphs [0044]-[0045] that the user request receiving means 21, and prepayment control means 22 are both a part of the same entity i.e., the prepayment control device 20. See Masuda Figure 1. Thus, Masuda fails to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claims 1, 35, 36 and 39.

Further, Applicants submit that Masuda fails to disclose or suggest at least the feature of the first entity being configured to send information defining an amount of the reserved portion in a first form other than a monetary amount and the controller is arranged to convert information relating to the amount of the reserved portion to a second form as a monetary amount (underline added) as recited in claim 21 and similarly recited in claims 37, 38 and 40.

Instead, Masuda discloses that the information defining the amount of the reserved portion is in the form of money (“balance of the user who has requested the packet service to be charged”) (See paragraphs [0094]-[0095] of Masuda). Applicants further submit that the Office Action admits that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest this feature by the indication that claim 29 recites allowable subject matter. This feature is incorporated into independent claims 21, 37, 38 and 40. Therefore, Masuda fails to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claims 21, 37, 38 and 40.

Applicants submit that because claims 2-8, 10-20, 22-34, and 41-46 depend from claims 1, 21 and 40 respectively, these claims are allowable at least for the same reasons as claims 1, 21 and 40.

Based at least on the above, Applicants submit that the cited reference fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in any of the pending claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-8, 10-28 and 32-46 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Masuda, in view of US Publication No. 2004/0203585 to Wills et al. (Wills). The Office Action took the position that Masuda disclosed all of the features recited in claim 9 except the feature of the reserved amount is monitored by periodically determining how much of said reserved portion each of said plurality of services have used to provide a plurality of values and summing the plurality of values. The Office Action asserts that Wills disclosed this feature. Applicants submit that the cited references, taken

individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 9.

Specifically, Applicants submit that because claim 9 depends from claim 1, Masuda is deficient at least for the same reasons stated regarding claim 1 and Wills fails to cure these deficiencies.

Wills is directed to a system and method to enable the user and/or the responsible party to make payments as the user uses the telecommunication services. Wills fails to mention, disclose or suggest storing the pre-paid balance at an entity, separate to where the allocation of the reserved portion is controlled. Thus, Wills fails to cure the deficiencies of Masuda.

Based at least on the above, Applicants submit that the cited references taken individually or in combination fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 9. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Masuda, in view of US Pub. No. 2003/0037176 to Dannehr et al. (Dannehr). The Office Action took the position that Masuda disclosed all of the features of claim 30 except the feature of a first entity that operates in accordance with a CAMEL protocol. The Office Action asserted that Dannehr disclosed this feature. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references taken individually or in combination fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 30.

Specifically, because claim 30 depends from claim 21, Masuda is deficient at least for the same reasons stated above regarding claim 21, and Dannehr fails to cure these deficiencies.

Dannehr is directed to message transmission between telecommunications network elements that are involved in Multimedia Service (MMS). Dannehr fails to mention, disclose or suggest the feature of a first entity that is configured to send information defining an amount of the reserved portion in a first form other than a monetary amount and the controller is arranged to convert information relating to the amount of the reserved portion to a second form as a monetary amount. Therefore, Dannehr fails to cure the deficiencies of Masuda.

Based at least on the above, Applicants submit that the cited references taken individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 30. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Masuda, in view of US Publication No. 2002/0116338 to Gonthier et al (Gonthier). The Office Action took the position that Masuda disclosed all of the features recited in claim 31 except the feature of a controller that operates in accordance with the RADIUS protocol. The Office Action asserted that Gonthier disclosed this feature. Applicants submit that the cited references taken individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 31.

Specifically, because claim 31 depends from claim 21, Masuda is deficient at least for the same reasons stated above regarding claim 21, and Gonthier fails to cure these deficiencies.

Gonthier is directed to prepaid access to an Internet Protocol (IP) network. A server that manages access to the network has a protocol client to support pre-paid functionality. Gonthier fails to mention, disclose or suggest the feature of a first entity that is configured to send information defining an amount of the reserved portion in a first form other than a monetary amount and the controller is arranged to convert information relating to the amount of the reserved portion to a second form as a monetary amount. Therefore, Gonthier fails to cure the deficiencies of Masuda.

Based at least on the above, Applicants submit that the cited references taken individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 31. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

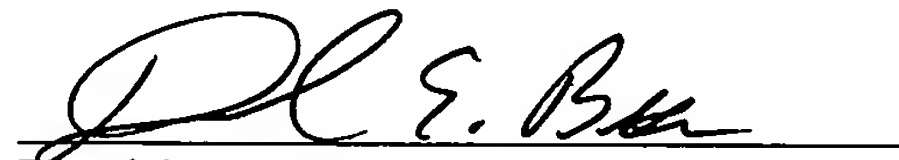
The Office Action objected to claim 29 as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. Applicants submit that because claim 29 in its present form depends from claim 21, claim 29 is allowable at least for the same reasons discussed above regarding claim 21. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claim 29 is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that each of claims 1-46 recite features that are neither disclosed nor suggested in any of the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants request that claims 1-46 be allowed and this application be passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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